



Corporate Headquarters

PO Box 1335
Durant, OK 74702
580.924.5094 fax: 580.920.2745
www.ruralenterprises.com

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

May 13, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

For nearly three decades, Rural Enterprises of Oklahoma, Inc. (REI) has strived to achieve the best possible economic conditions for entrepreneurs and families in the rural parts of our state.

Through a team of hardworking individuals in six separate locations across Oklahoma, REI's innovative solutions to business development has helped rural families create and expand their businesses through a combination of tax incentives, training, financing and housing assistance. What's more, in cooperation with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Eastern Oklahoma State College, REI created the Native American Business Resource Center (NABRC), an initiative to aid Oklahoma's Native American population establish and grow their businesses.

Like any other rural part of the United States, we face perpetual challenges: attracting private business, retaining a skilled workforce, and helping to maintain a high standard of living for people within our state. In particular, Oklahoma's rural communities face the double challenge of creating the right business environment not just for investment, but one that will also influence enterprising individuals to think twice about moving to Tulsa or Oklahoma City. As much as we endeavor to retain these individuals and attract private business, the greatest way we can incentivize them is simple: through fast, reliable wireless broadband.

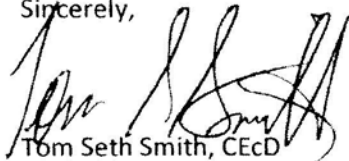
Given the crucial role that wireless broadband plays in our economy, there is always the threat that as this expanding technology grows (especially 4G Long term evolution) in more urban parts of the country, rural communities will – again – be left behind. This is why I believe that we owe it to rural Oklahoma – and the entire country – to support the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. In our quest to attract both private and human capital, wireless broadband acts as a great equalizer between urban and rural America, creating opportunity for businesses that otherwise would not have even considered investing outside of Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

This merger will not just augment existing wireless broadband infrastructure, but – crucially – expand cutting edge LTE technology that's necessary if we want to create a more dynamic business environment for Oklahomans, who otherwise, would have had no option but to leave their communities to start a small business.

I hope the FCC fully considers the extraordinary benefits that rural communities in Oklahoma will experience once this merger is approved. Rural communities are long used to waiting for cutting edge technology. Once this technology arrives, it's usually out of date, therefore putting them at a competitive disadvantage. This merger will help level the playing field between rural and urban communities, reinvigorating our state's economy.

I fully appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed merger and the benefits that it will bring to rural Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Seth Smith', written over a printed name.

Tom Seth Smith, CEcD
President and CEO

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker